

# APPENDIX

## EARLY MINUTES OF THE GRAND LODGE OF NORTH CAROLINA

Transcribed verbatim from the original records.

Tarborough, December 9th, A.L., 5787

At a Convention of Delegates of the lodges in the State of North Carolina, for the Purpose of Electing a Grand Master and other Grand Officers for the Same, the Brethern then Assembled unanimously Appointed

Brother John Mare, in the Chair,

Brother Benjamin Manchester, Secretary to the present Convention.

The following Lodges by their Delegates, produced Credentials Viz.

Unamity—Brothers John Mare, Stephen Cabarrus

St. John's No. 2—Brothers Manchester, Abner Neal

Royal Edwin No. 4—Brothers John Johnston, Andrew Oliver, Silas White Arnett

Royal White Hart No. 403—Brothers William Muir, McDougall, John Geddy

Royal William No. 8—Brothers Hardy Murfree, Patrick Garvey, William Little

Union at Fayetteville—Brother James Porterfield

Blanford Bute—Brothers Edward Jones, William Johnston

Old Cone—Brother John Armstrong.

On Motion, agreed, That the proceedings of this night be binding, and that the following rules be observed during the Sitting of this Convention, to Wit,

1. That no question be put but on motion made and Seconded.

2. When a Brother rises he shall address the Chair and not proceed until called by name by the President.

3. When two or more Brothers rise the President shall determine who rose first.

4. When the President rises, the Brothers up shall sit down, and the President shall not be interrupted.

5. No whispering or private committees during business shall be allowed.

6. No Mason not being a member of the Convention,

shall be admitted except by a majority of the Same.

7. No Brother shall leave the room without permission of the President.

8. That the Votes for the Election of a Grand Master, etc., etc. be by Lodges.

9. That any motion made that requires a Vote, where the Votes are Equal, the President to have the Casting One.

The Convention then adjourned till to Morrow morning 7 O'clock.

Monday December The 10th, 5787

The Convention met according to adjournment. The following Brethren (on Motion made and Seconded) were nominated for the Several Offices hereafter mentioned:

Samuel Johnston, Richard Caswell, Richard Ellis, for Grand Master.

John Mare, John Williams, Deputy Grand Master.

William Johnston, D. Davis, Charles Johnston, Senior Grand Warden.

Michael Payne, John Craddock, James Glasgow, Junior Grand Warden.

William Gilmore, Joseph Leech, Grand Treasurer.

Montford Stokes, Robert Freare, Benjamin Manchester, Grand Secretary.

On a Motion made and Seconded, it was

Resolved: That the following Brethren be a Committee to frame Rules and regulations for the Several Lodges to be hereafter to be held in this State to Wit.

Brother John Mare, Garvey, Cabarrus, McDougal, Abner Neal, William Johnston, Benjamin Manchester.

The Convention then adjourned till tomorrow Morning 8 O'clock.

Tuesday December The 11th, 5787

The Convention met agreeable to Adjournment. Present the Several Delegates from the different Lodges mentioned before, as also Brothers Richard Caswell, James Glasgow and William Randall, Kinston Lodge No. 3.

A memorial from the Dornoch Lodge being read, it was unanimously agreed, that Brothers Henry Hill and John Macon be admitted to Sit in the Convention but not allowed to Vote for the Several Officers of the Grand Lodge.

The Committee appointed yesterday made their report when it was unanimously agreed that Brother Caswell

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should form a draught from the report of the Committee, which shall be laid before the Convention this Afternoon.

On balloting for a Grand Master, the Votes Stood as follows:

Samuel Johnston, 5, Richard Caswell, 3, Richard Ellis, 1.

When Brother Samuel Johnston was declared duly elected Grand Master for this State.

On balloting for a Deputy Grand Master the Votes stood as follows:

Richard Caswell, 4, John Mare, 2, Richard Ellis, 2, Charles Johnston, 1.

When Brother Richard Caswell was declared duly Elected.

On balloting for a Grand Senior Warden, the Votes stood as follows:

Richard Ellis, 5, Charles Johnston, 3.

When Brother Richard Ellis was declared duly elected.

On balloting for a Grand Junior Warden, the Votes stood as follows:

Michael Payne, 6, Good Davis, 3.

When Brother Payne was declared duly Elected.

On balloting for a Grand Treasurer the Votes stood as follows:

Abner Neal, 4, Joseph Leech, 2, William Gilmore, 3.

When Brother Abner Neal was declared duly Elected.

On balloting for a Grand Secretary, the Votes stood as follows:

James Glasgow, 7, Montford Stokes, 2.

When Brother James Glasgow was declared duly Elected.

On a motion made by Brother Garvey it was resolved that the delegates of this Convention Sign the proceedings of the Same; and that the Grand Secretary do purchase parchment and transcribe the Charter now to be Granted to the Grand Lodge by this Convention and that the Same be Forwarded to the different Lodges to be Signed by the Several Delegates of Said Convention.

Adjourned till 4 O'clock this Afternoon.

The Convention met agreeable to Adjournment.

Brother Caswell having framed a draught of a Constitution for the Regulations of the Several Lodges of this State, it was read and concurred with as follows:

TO THE GLORY OF THE GREAT ARCHITECT.

WHEREAS the Harmony and happiness of the Ancient

and Honourable Society of Free and Accepted Masons have been disturbed by the late revolution and the free intercourse and correspondence between the fraternity in America and Great Britain thereby in a great Measure broken off; whereby it has become necessary that the Brethern in the State of North Carolina, establish a certain mode, or frame of Constitution, for the well ordering and uniform government of the Society.

And Whereas a majority of the several regular Constituted Lodges of this State, having elected Delegates for the express purpose of forming such Constitution, and electing the Grand Officers of the State; the following Delegates to wit,

Unanimity—Brothers John Mare and Stephen Cabarrus, St. John's No. 2—Brother B. Manchester and Abner Neal, Royal Edwin No. 4—Brother John Johnston, Oliver and Arnett,

Royal White Hart No. 403—Brothers Muir, McDougall and Geddy,

Royal William No. 8—Brothers Murfree, Garvey and Little, Union—Brother Porterfield,

Blandford Bute—Brothers Edwd. Jones and William Johnston,

Old Cone—Brother John Armstrong,

Kinston—Brothers Richard Caswell, and James Glasgow and William Randall,

Met at Tarborough, produced their respective delegations and opened a Convention on the ninth day of December, Era Masonry 5787.

Brother John Mare in the Chair.

Brother Benjamin Manchester, Secretary.

The Convention duly considering the Very Important business committed to them, unanimously agree as follows, to Wit.

That the government of all the Lodges that now are, or hereafter may be established in this State, Shall be vested in a Grand Master and other Grand Officers to be Elected according to the Ancient Constitution of free and Accepted Masons; who with Such members as Shall be appointed by the Several Lodges to attend in Convention Shall be Stiled and denominated The Grand Lodge of the State of North Carolina, which Grand Lodge shall exercise all the powers

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incident or usual to Grand Lodges held under the Authorities expressed in the Book of Constitutions (until a Constitution for the government of the Craft shall be proposed and adopted by a Continental Grand Lodge, if Such Shall be appointed) and that all private Lodges conform and Subject themselves to such government accordingly.

And for the purpose of carrying this Constitution into effect, the Brethern proceeded in their Ancient and Laudable method, to elect the Officers of the Said Grand Lodge for the ensuing year from the Next St. John's day the ballots being taken, the following Brethern to wit Samuel Johnston, Grand Master; Richard Caswell, Deputy Grand Master; Richard Ellis, Senior Grand Warden; Michael Payne, Junior Grand Warden; Abner Neale, Grand Treasurer; and James Glasgow, Grand Secretary, were duly elected and announced accordingly.

Done in Convention this 12th day of  
December, A.D. 1787. A.L. 5787.

For Unanimity Lodge	Jno. Mare, President. S. Cabarrus.
St. John's Lodge No. 2	B. Manchester, Sec. Abner Neale
Royal Edwin No. 4	S. W. Arnett John Johnston Andrew Oliver
Royal White Hart	Sam McDougall William Muir
Royal William No. 8	Hardy Murfree Patrick Garvey William P. Little
Union at Fayetteville	James Porterfield
Blanford Bute	Edward Jones William Johnston
Old Cone	John Armstrong

Kinston No. 3

Richard Caswell  
James Glasgow  
William Randall

Dornoch No. 5

H. Hill  
John Macon

On Motion of Brother Caswell,  
Ordered that the Installations of the Several Officers of the  
Grand Lodge who have been appointed by this Convention,  
Shall take place tomorrow at 11 O'clock, A. M.

Adjourned till tomorrow Morning  
11 O'clock.

Wednesday 12th, 5787

At a meeting of a Master's Lodge held in Convention the  
12th December, A.L. 5787.

*Present*

W. B. John Mare M. P. T.	
W. B. Wm. Johnston S. W. P. T.	
W. B. Hardy Murfree J. W. P. T.	
W. B. Benjamin Manchester Sec. P. T.	
W. B. Stephen Cabarrus, Treas. P. T.	
B. Abner Neale	B. Edward Jones
S. W. Arnett	John Armstrong
John Johnston	Richard Caswell
Andrew Oliver	James Glasgow
Sam McDougall	William Randall
William Muir	Henry Hill
Patrick Garvey	John Macon
William P. Little	John Geddy
James Porterfield	

*Visitors*

Brothers Davis, Freare, Steward, Love, Bryan, Easton, Mont-  
ford, Thomas, Rhodes, Sherrard, Gerard, Gamble, Ivey,  
O'Malley, Baker, John Stokes.

The Lodge being opened the following Brethern being  
Elected Grand Officers for the State, were regularly install-  
ed, to Wit,

The Right Worshipful Brother Samuel Johnston (by his  
proxy B. Johnston) Grand Master.



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The R. W. Brother Richard Caswell, Deputy Grand Master.

The R. W. Brother Richard Ellis (by his proxy Brother Silas W. Arnett) Senior Grand Warden.

The R. W. Brother Michael Payne (by his proxy Brother Stephen Cabarrus) Junior Grand Warden.

The R. W. Brother Abner Neale, Grand Treasurer.

The R. W. Brother James Glasgow, Grand Secretary.

The W. M. Brother Mare was pleased to give the following charge to the Several Officers of the Grand Lodge, to Wit.

Most Worshipful Samuel Johnston Esquire Grand Master, and Richard Caswell, Esquire Deputy Grand Master of Masons in the State of North Carolina.

As you have the Honour to be placed at the head of us in the Masonic Zone, we flatter ourselves that under your wisdom and patronage the Art of Masonry will flourish amongst us. Let me observe to you on this occasion that Our Ancient Constitution is to be our guide and Support; being persuaded that exhortation to a more punctual discharge of your duties would appear at present unnecessary, Still permit me without giving Offence to anyone in this Large and respectable meeting, to make a few Observations; perhaps they may be of benefit to the newly admitted Brethern, if any are present.

Would every Brother consider the advantages he derives by being initiated in Our Body, he would surely confess its glorious precepts taught in all regular Lodges, are calculated in a particular manner to form their minds in goodness; they strongly recommend us to Cultivate Our Several Duties to God, Our neighbor, ourselves and Charity to all man kind. The rules of this fraternity have a direct tendency to promote Moral and Social Virtue; let us then be careful to justify ourselves in paying a punctual attention to the rules of this Grand Profession and above all let us conform ourselves to that Great Light the Law of God, that will teach us to be submissive to our Superiors, to our equals courteous, and to our inferiors kind and condescending.

Masonry is an offspring of Heaven, the Patronesses of the liberal arts and sciences, which polish human nature, and happy are they in some degree that are Conversant with her; and we find that many of her Voicaries are rendered

immortal by their Works.

You will allow me to recommend to you, whenever any Candidate asks admittance that there will always be made a strict and impartial enquiry into their characters of whatever rank or condition; this neglect has brought an abuse too common in most Lodges, and this timely care will give a permanency to the craft which will restore honour and dignity upon its members.

Brother Officers now present, permit me to address myself to you; from the important places you now fill, I have the greatest reason to expect that you will not be too much elated with that honour, but losing sight of it will have only in view the services your offices demand; this conduct, while it endears you to others, will not fail to raise your own reputation. I likewise trust that you will be more punctual to the regulations of this Grand Society; Such is its nature, that as some must rule and teach, So others must of course learn to Obey.

Your being emerged in political honours, will not make you forget in what line you now stand; I hope the engagements on your initiation, will appear too important to be trifled with; Stand firm upon the foundation on which you are placed, keep a stretched out arm holding a plumb line in your hand, an emblem of your rectitude, and you shall not be passed by.

Let these considerations my worthy Brethern animate us in the pursuit of so noble a Science, that we may be qualified to fill in turn the most distinguished places, and at the same time let our actions convince the world that truth, brotherly love and a desire to afford relief to the distressed, are the Grand principals whereon we proceed, So that when we have passed this life in the discharge of our duties, as men and Free Masons, we may obtain the reward, which is admittance in those happy regions where reigns silence and peace forevermore.

J. Mare, President.

Brethern of this Hon. Convention.

As we have gone through the important business for which we met together, allow me in the gladness of my heart to express the gratitude I owe you in having the honour to sit in this exalted chair; and as I am about to leave



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it to express the happiness I feel at this time in seeing the great work for which we convened finished; I hope the result of it will give a stability to the Society, which will reflect honour and dignity upon the Craft.

We may flatter ourselves, as we have laid the foundation and placed such exalted characters at our head, that Free Masonry will flourish throughout this State. I hope it will not be taken amiss if I charge you on this occasion, that you will observe a strict attention to the rules and Constitution of Masonry in your respective Lodges, that will cement us all in one band of Brotherly love.

I am now taking my leave of you, Permit me to implore the world's Great Architect, who is our Supreme Grand Master, to help you with all those gifts of understanding, and all those calm dispositions of heart, which will make you Ornaments to your friends and happy in yourselves.

J. Mare, President.

This business being over, the Lodge was closed in due form.

The Convention met agreeable to adjournment, Present.

The Delegates from the several Lodges before mentioned.

Motioned by Brother Arnett, and unanimously agreed to,

That the proceedings of this Convention be printed, and copies of the Same transmitted to the Several Lodges in this State.

Ordered, that the same be done under the direction of the Grand Secretary.

Resolved that the thanks of this Convention, be presented to the President, for the able and assiduous manner with which he hath discharged the duties of that office.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention be presented to the Secretary, for his able assiduity and attention to the business of that office.

The Convention then adjourned till tomorrow, 8 O'clock.

Thursday, December 13th, 5787

The Convention met according to adjournment.

On Motion made by Brother Cabarrus.

Ordered, That copies of the Charter of the Several Lodges in this State, be sent to the Grand Secretary of the Same, for the purpose of arranging them according to their respective dates.

Business being over the Convention was then closed.

(Signed)

J. Mare, President

S. Cabarrus

John Johnston

William Muir

S. W. Arnett

Andred Oliver

H. Murfree

Patrick Garvey

Wm. Little

H. Hill

John Macon

Edwd. Jones

William Johnston

Abner Neale

John Armstrong

William Randall

J. Glasgow

Richard Caswell

Jas. Porterfield

Sam McDougal

Benjamin Manchester

Secry.